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PTO/SB/05 (08-00)

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Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box  Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.**UTILITY
PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.	NPP022US
First Inventor	PAUL LAPSTUN
Title	PRINTER WITH MANUAL COLLATION CONTROL
Express Mail Label No.	EJ776407164US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☒ Applicant claims small entity status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.
3. ☒ Specification [Total Pages **19**]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive title of the invention
 - Cross Reference to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
4. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets **4**]
5. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages **3**]
 - a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
 - b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63 (d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
 - i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s)
named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
6. ☐ Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

7. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. ☐ Computer Readable Form (CRF)
 - b. Specification Sequence Listing on:
 - i. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
 - ii. ☐ paper
 - c. ☐ Statements verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

9. ☒ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) ☐ Power of Attorney
11. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
13. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
14. ☐ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)
15. ☒ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
16. ☐ Other:

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP)

of prior application No. _____

Prior application information.

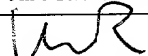
Examiner _____

Group / Art Unit _____

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS☒ Customer Number or Bar Code Label**24011**
(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)or ☐ Correspondence address below

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Docket No.: NPP022US

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Submitted herewith Utility Patent Application Transmittal and enclosures for an invention entitled "CODE SENSOR ATTACHMENT FOR PEN".

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FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2001

Patent fees are subject to annual revision

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$)**480**

Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	PAUL LAPSTUN
Examiner Name	
Group Art Unit	
Attorney Docket No.	NPP022US

METHOD OF PAYMENT

1. ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to
- Deposit Account Number
- Deposit Account Name
- ☐ Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17
- ☐ Applicant claims small entity status See 37 CFR 1.27
2. ☒ Payment Enclosed:
- ☒ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Fee Code	Small Entity Fee Code	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101 710	201 355	Utility filing fee	355
106 320	206 160	Design filing fee	
107 490	207 245	Plant filing fee	
108 710	208 355	Reissue filing fee	
114 150	214 75	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$) **355**

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

Total Claims **25** -20** = **5** X **9** = **45**

Independent Claims **2** - 3** = **0** X **40** = **0**

Multiple Dependent =

Large Entity Fee Code	Small Entity Fee Code	Fee Description	Fee Paid
103 18	203 9	Claims in excess of 20	
102 80	202 40	Independent claims in excess of 3	
104 270	204 135	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid	
109 80	209 40	** Reissue independent claims over original patent	
110 18	210 9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent	

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$) **45**

**for number previously paid, if greater, For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee Code	Small Entity Fee Code	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105 130	205 65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127 50	227 25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139 130	139 130	Non-English specification	
147 2,520	147 2,520	For filing a request for <i>ex parte</i> reexamination	
112 920*	112 920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113 1,840*	113 1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115 110	215 55	Extension for reply within first month	
116 390	216 195	Extension for reply within second month	
117 890	217 445	Extension for reply within third month	
118 1,390	218 695	Extension for reply within fourth month	
128 1,890	228 945	Extension for reply within fifth month	
119 310	219 155	Notice of Appeal	
120 310	220 155	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121 270	221 135	Request for oral hearing	
138 1,510	138 1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140 110	240 55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141 1,240	241 620	Petition to revive - unintentional	
142 1,240	242 620	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143 440	243 220	Design issue fee	
144 600	244 300	Plant issue fee	
122 130	122 130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123 50	123 50	Petitions related to provisional applications	
126 240	126 240	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581 40	581 40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	80
146 710	246 355	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
149 710	249 355	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
179 710	279 355	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169 900	169 900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

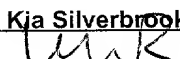
Other fee (specify)

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$) **80**

SUBMITTED BY

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Signature 

Registration No (Attorney/Agent)

Complete (if applicable)

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Date **Nov. 22, 2000**

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PRINTER WITH MANUAL COLLATION CONTROL

FIELD OF INVENTION

The present invention relates to printing documents and, more particularly, is directed toward a printer which prints collated multi-page documents from a plurality of manually
5 collated pages.

CO-PENDING APPLICATIONS

Various methods, systems and apparatus relating to the present invention are disclosed in the following co-pending applications filed by the applicant or assignee of the present invention simultaneously with the present invention:

10 NPA060US, NPA061US, NPA081US, NPA082US, NPP010US, NPP013US,
NPP015US, NPP020US, NPP021US, NPP022US, NPP023US, NPS014US,
NPS015US, NPS017US, NPS018US, NPS022US, NPS027US, NPS028US,
NPT008US, BIN01US, BIN02US, BIN03US, BIN04US

15 The disclosures of these co-pending applications are incorporated herein by cross-reference. Each application is temporarily identified by its docket number. This will be replaced by the corresponding USSN when available.

Various methods, systems and apparatus relating to the present invention are disclosed in the following co-pending applications filed by the applicant or assignee of
20 the present invention on 20 October 2000:

NPA011US, NPA031US, NPA040US, NPA046US, NPA053US, NPA059US,
NPA064US, NPB006US, NPS004US, NPS008US, NPS013US, NPS024US,
UP01US, UP02US, UP03US, UP04US, UP05US

25 The disclosures of these co-pending applications are incorporated herein by cross-reference. Each application is temporarily identified by its docket number. This will be replaced by the corresponding USSN when available.

Various methods, systems and apparatus relating to the present invention are disclosed in the following co-pending applications filed by the applicant or assignee of
30 the present invention on 15 September 2000:

NPP022US

NPA024US, NPA025US, NPA047US, NPA049US

The disclosures of these co-pending applications are incorporated herein by cross-reference. Each application is temporarily identified by its docket number. This will be
5 replaced by the corresponding USSN when available.

Various methods, systems and apparatus relating to the present invention are disclosed in the following co-pending applications filed by the applicant or assignee of the present invention on 30 June 2000:

09724550 " 4 2500
10 NPA014US, NPA015US, NPA022US, NPA026US, NPA038US, NPA041US,
NPA050US, NPA051US, NPA052US, NPA063US, NPA065US, NPA067US,
NPA068US, NPA069US, NPA071US, NPA072US, NPB003US, NPB004US,
NPB005US, NPP019US, PEC04US, PEC05US, PEC06US, PEC07US

The disclosures of these co-pending applications are incorporated herein by cross-
15 reference. Each application is temporarily identified by its docket number. This will be replaced by the corresponding USSN when available.

Various methods, systems and apparatus relating to the present invention are disclosed in the following co-pending applications filed by the applicant or assignee of the present invention on 23 May 2000:

20 NPA001US, NPA002US, NPA004US, NPA005US, NPA006US, NPA007US,
NPA008US, NPA009US, NPA010US, NPA012US, NPA016US, NPA017US,
NPA018US, NPA019US, NPA020US, NPA021US, NPA030US, NPA035US,
NPA048US, NPA075US, NPB001US, NPB002US, NPK002US, NPK003US,
NPK004US, NPK005US, NPM001US, NPM002US, NPM003US, NPM004US,
25 NPN001US, NPP001US, NPP003US, NPP005US, NPP006US, NPP007US,
NPP008US, NPP016US, NPP017US, NPP018US, NPS001US, NPS003US,
NPS020US, NPT001US, NPT002US, NPT003US, NPT004US, NPX001US,
NPX003US, NPX008US, NPX011US, NPX014US, NPX016US, IJ52US,
IJM52US, MJ10US, MJ11US, MJ12US, MJ13US, MJ14US,
30 MJ15US, MJ34US, MJ47US, MJ58US, MJ62US, MJ63US,
PAK04US, PAK05US, PAK06US, PAK07US, PAK08US, PEC01US,
PEC02US, PEC03US

NPP022US

The disclosures of these co-pending applications are incorporated herein by cross-reference. Each application is temporarily identified by its docket number. This will be replaced by the corresponding USSN when available.

20250726

BACKGROUND

Multi-page documents often include content created using a diversity of desktop applications including word processing, drawing, graphing and spreadsheet tools. Because of operating system and middleware complexity, many users are unable to
5 integrate diverse content into a single presentation document. In many cases, a single presentation document combines content created by different users, all of whom may have particular application skills, but none of whom may have content integration skills. Because of this users often resort to manual collation.

The problem becomes particularly apparent when multiple copies of a multiple page
10 collated document are required. If it is difficult or impossible for the user to print out the pages in the desired, collated order, then the user typically has to finish the process by manually collating each individual multi-page document copy. The degree of complexity in this process depends on the number of pages in each copy and the number of copies printed.

15 If the printed multi-page documents are to be bound, the necessity of manual collation prevents full automation of the process, as proper collation must occur before the binding step.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a new printer for and method of
20 printing collated documents.

The present invention provides, in a first aspect, a printer for printing a collated multi-page document when presented with a plurality of manually collated pages, the printer including:

- 25 (a) a code sensor which senses machine-readable codes on the manually collated pages;
- (b) a control unit which uses the machine-readable codes to identify and retrieve previously stored electronic versions of the pages; and
- (c) a print engine which prints the retrieved pages.

Preferably the printer includes a binder for binding together the printed pages, and a scanner for copying pages which do not have machine-readable codes on them and which produces electronic versions of the pages.

Preferably also the printer includes a storage medium which stores the electronic
5 versions of the scanned pages, and a hand-held code sensor which senses machine-readable codes on the manually collated pages wherein the machine-readable codes on the manually collated pages are represented:

- (a) optically; or
- (b) electronically; or
- 10 (c) magnetically; or
- (d) topographically; or
- (e) chemically.

Preferably the code sensor senses machine-readable codes on both sides of the manually collated pages, and the control unit also controls communications between the printer
15 and one or more peripheral devices. Preferably electronic versions of the manually collated pages which are to be printed are retrieved from at least one of the group including:

- (a) a storage medium contained within a host computer;
- (b) a server which is accessed over a computer network;
- 20 (c) a storage medium contained within the printer itself; or
- (d) any combination of the above.

Preferably the printer includes an input device with which a user of the printer controls the format of the printed and collated multi-page document, wherein the input device includes a touch sensitive display, and wherein the print engine also prints machine-
25 readable codes onto a page, and wherein the machine-readable codes are not visible to human vision. Preferably also the printer inserts blank pages in the printed document to duplicate blank pages contained within the manually collated pages. Preferably instructions from a hand-held code sensor are received and interpreted, and a collated

multi-page document is produced.

Preferably the printer includes an interface which transmits instructions for printing a collated multi-page document to a second printer, wherein the instructions are transmitted over a computer network or over a telephone network. Also preferably the
5 printer includes a storage medium which stores an electronic version of pages which have been printed.

In a second aspect, the invention provides a method of printing a collated multi-page document when presented with a plurality of manually collated pages, the method including the following steps:

- 10 (a) sensing machine-readable codes on the manually collated pages using a code sensor;
 - (b) using the machine-readable codes to identify and retrieve previously stored electronic versions of the pages; and
 - (c) printing the retrieved pages.
- 15 Preferably the invention provides a method including the step of binding together the printed pages, and further including the steps of using a scanner for copying pages which do not have machine-readable codes on them and producing electronic versions of those pages. Preferably also the step of printing the retrieved pages includes printing machine-readable codes on those pages, and wherein the machine-readable codes are invisible.
- 20 Preferably the code sensor senses machine-readable codes on both sides of the manually collated pages.

Preferably the method includes the step of using an input device to control the format of the printed and collated multi-page document, and wherein the printing step includes the sub-step of transmitting the retrieved pages to a remote printer.

- 25 The invention will now be described in greater detail by reference to the attached drawings. It is to be understood that the particularity of the embodiments illustrated in the drawings does not supersede the generality of the foregoing description of the invention.

Preferred and other embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of non-limiting example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 2 illustrates the printing and binding path for an embodiment of the invention;

Figure 4 is a block diagram of a printer controller according to an embodiment of the invention;

- Figure 6 is a flow diagram of a printing and copying control process.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED AND OTHER EMBODIMENTS

A page can be printed with one or more machine-readable codes which identify an electronic version of the page stored in a computer system. This can allow the page to be used as a token for obtaining a pristine digital copy of the page, described further in our earlier application USSN 09/_____ (docket no. NPA031US), obviating any need to physically scan and print (i.e. "photocopy") the page. It can also allow the page to be used in conjunction with a hand-held code-sensing device to capture user input in relation to the page, such as handwriting and hyperlink activations described further in our earlier application USSN 09/_____ (docket no. NPP023US). The machine-readable codes are preferably unobtrusive and ideally invisible, e.g. printed using an ink which is machine-readable but invisible to the unaided human eye, such as an infrared-absorptive ink.

Various workgroup printers have been described which also act as "walk-up" document terminals, i.e. they provide a user interface which allows a document to be selected and printed without recourse to a workstation, and in particular, without recourse to a workstation with access to the original electronic version of the document. An example of such a workgroup printer is described further in our earlier application USSN 09/_____ (docket no. SP05US). Documents which may be selected and printed in this way are typically documents which have been previously printed via the printer, and in the process stored on the printer's internal hard disk. To optimize printing speed, the documents are typically stored in a rasterized or partially-rasterized format. A user may have the option to "print" a document to the printer's hard disk, i.e. to make it available for walk-up printing without actually printing it.

A walk-up printer may utilize storage on a local-area or wide-area network rather than having its own internal storage, and a group of such printers may have access to a shared document repository. A walk-up printer may also simply record links to original documents rather than making copies.

A printer may include a binding mechanism for binding the pages of a document into a single whole. Various binding mechanisms suitable for inclusion in a high-speed workgroup printer are described further in our co-filed application USSN 09/_____

(docket no. BIN01US). Since a document must typically be sent to a printer as a single document to produce a bound copy, document integration is normally a prerequisite for binding. This presents a barrier to many users.

5 The present invention concerns a printer which can produce one or more bound documents when presented with a manually-collated bundle of pages. The printer contains a code sensor for sensing machine-readable codes on the pages, allowing it to identify and produce printed copies of the pages from electronic versions of the pages. The printer optionally contains a scanner for copying pages which are not coded.

10 The copying process may be used to produce double-sided output from single-sided input. Blank pages can be interspersed with the input to force the inclusion of blank pages.

As illustrated in Figure 1, the printer of the preferred embodiment has two input trays, one for source pages 1012, the other for sheets 1014 of an input medium such as paper. The paper path includes an input transport mechanism 1022, one or more code sensors
15 1024, one or more print engines 1026, an output transport mechanism 1028, and a binding mechanism 1030, 1032. A printer controller 1040 controls the printing process.

The printer has a single output tray in which it accumulates both decoded source pages 1012 and printed and bound documents 1020. As an alternative, the printer may have separate output trays for source pages and documents. It may, for example, deposit
20 decoded source pages back in the source page input tray, typically separated from input source pages by a mechanical finger which prevents already-sensed source pages from being treated as further input.

In the preferred form of the printer, source page sensing and printing both utilize the same paper transport mechanism. As an alternative, the printer may contain separate
25 page sensing and printing paper paths and associated transport mechanisms.

The preferred binding mechanism, described further in our co-filed application USSN 09/_____ (docket no. BIN01US), consists of a page-height adhesive applicator 1030, and a page-height stamper 1032. The adhesive applicator applies a strip of adhesive adjacent to the spine of a page just before the page enters the output bin. The stamper
30 1032 presses the pages in the output bin together, causing pages with adhesive strips to

adhere to each other. Adhesive may be applied to either the front or the back of each page of a document. When it is applied to the front, it is not applied to the first page. When it is applied to the back, it is not applied to the last page. The stamper is typically operated after the last page of the document is printed, although if adhesive is applied to the front of each (face-down) page, then the stamper may be used after each page is printed or periodically during the printing of a document. Alternative binding mechanisms include corner or page-height stapling and clamping.

The preferred code sensor 1024, described further in our earlier application USSN 09/_____ (docket no. NPP023US), consists of a light source, projection and image capture optics, and an image sensor. Codes are represented by optical patterns which are printed or otherwise applied to a surface, for example as described further in our earlier application USSN 09/_____ (docket no. NPP023US). As a source page 1012 is transported past the code sensor 1024, the printer controller 1040 captures images of the page surface via the image sensor, decodes the optical patterns found in the images, and thereby obtains one or more codes which directly or indirectly identify the source page and/or a document of which the source page is part. Codes may alternatively be represented electronically, magnetically, topographically, or chemically, with correspondingly adapted code sensors.

During printing, as illustrated in Figure 2, the input transport mechanism 1022 picks up an input sheet 1014, the print engines 1026 print the page content onto one or both sides of the sheet, and the output transport mechanism 1028 deposits the sheet in the output tray. The adhesive applicator 1030 applies adhesive 1018 to one side of the sheet just before it is deposited in the output tray, and the stamper 1032 presses the several sheets of a document together in the output tray to form a bound document 1020.

During code sensing, as illustrated in Figure 3, the input transport mechanism 1022 picks up a source page 1012, the processor senses codes from one or both sides of the source page via the code sensors 1024, and the output transport mechanism 1028 deposits the source page in the output tray. Copying consists of a code sensing phase followed by a printing phase. In the preferred arrangement, the code sensors are a fixed part of the apparatus. As an alternative to this arrangement, the code sensor may be embodied in a hand-held device, such as a suitably enabled pen or stylus, as described further in our

earlier application USSN 09/_____ (docket no. NPS027US), so that the user specifies how the printed document is collated by manually sensing a set of pages, in which case the printer need not necessarily include the code sensor 1024 in the paper path.

- 5 The printer is ideally enabled for printing codes which it can subsequently sense. This is not a requirement, however, and the printer may simply be used in conjunction with source pages printed by another printer.

The printer may also be enabled, described further in our earlier application USSN 09/_____ (docket no. NPP023US), for receiving, interpreting and/or relaying
10 transmissions from a hand-held code sensing device, such as a suitably enabled pen or stylus, as described further in our earlier application USSN 09/_____ (docket no. NPS027US).

The printer has a user interface which minimally provides a “copy” button. The user inter-face may also include a color touch-sensitive display which allows a user to browse
15 a list of documents accessible to the printer, and select a particular document for printing. The copy button may also be provided in virtual form on the display. When the user presses the copy button, the printer transports each source page in the input tray past the code sensors and records the corresponding page identity information. When all source pages have been processed, the printer uses the page identity information to
20 retrieve electronic versions of the pages, and uses these electronic versions to print “copies” of the source pages, bound into a single document. The printer consults a locally- or network-stored index of documents and/or pages to identify and retrieve the electronic versions of the pages.

The user interface may allow the user to select or specify typical photocopying and
25 printing options, including the number of copies, whether documents are bound, single-sided versus double-sided printing, scaling of page content, and media selection, including different media sizes.

The printer controller 1040, a block diagram of which is shown in Figure 4, handles communication with host computers, manages the user interface, and controls the
30 printing process. It consists of an integrated controller chip 1041 and a number of

separate components. The controller includes a processor 1042 which runs control software loaded into a DRAM 1044 from a flash memory 1046. The processor may also download control software from a host computer.

The printer controller communicates with host computers via a network interface 1046.

- 5 The network interface may provide direct connection to a host computer, such as a serial, parallel (IEEE 1284), Universal Serial Bus (USB) or IEEE 1394 connection, or connection onto a local-area network, such as an Ethernet, or connection onto a wide-area network, such as the Internet. The controller may include multiple such network interfaces.
- 10 The printer controller may include a disk controller 1056 for controlling a hard disk 1058 internal to the printer. The printer controller may use the hard disk for storing queued print jobs, i.e. documents, rasterized or partially-rasterized pages, and an index of documents and pages. It may also utilize storage provided by computers accessible via its network interface for some or all of these purposes.
- 15 If the printer includes a touch-sensitive color display user interface, then the printer controller includes a display controller 1060 for controlling a color display 1062, and a touch sensor 1066 overlaid on the display for capturing user interactions with the displayed user interface. The color display is typically a TFT color LCD, but may be any suitable display device, including, for example, an organic LED (OLED) display. The
- 20 printer controller captures input from the touch sensor 1066 via a parallel interface 1064.

The printer may include a number of user interface LEDs 1068 for indicating printer, paper and ink status information to users. The printer controller also controls these via the parallel interface 1064.

- The printer controller includes one or more image sensor interfaces 1060 for controlling
- 25 a corresponding number of image sensors 1074 used to capture images of code patterns appearing on source page surfaces. Each image sensor 1074 is typically a charge coupled device (CCD), but may be any suitable image sensor, including, for example, a CMOS image sensor. At least one illumination LED 1070 is typically associated with each image sensor. The printer controller also controls the illumination LEDs 1070 via the
 - 30 parallel interface 1064, although they may be more closely coupled with the relevant

image sensor interface 1060 to allow them to be efficiently strobed in synchrony with image capture.

The printer typically includes one or two printheads 1052, depending on whether it has a duplex printing capability or not, although it may include additional printheads to
5 achieve higher-speed printing or to support more complex ink sets.

The printer controller includes a high-speed serial interface 1048 for communicating with a pair of print engine/controllers 1050, each of which controls a printhead 1052. In the preferred form of the printer, the printheads 1052 are high-speed inkjet printheads, and the print engine/controllers 1050 accept compressed page descriptions which they
10 expand and send to the printheads in real time, described further in our earlier application USSN 09/_____ (docket no. SP05US).

As described above, the printer may have an internal hard disk 1058, typically with multi-gigabyte capacity, for storing documents to be printed as well as rasterized or partially-rasterized pages. Alternatively it may rely on network storage for these purposes.
15 The printer typically accepts documents described using a high-level page description language (PDL) such as Adobe PostScript or Microsoft Windows Metafile which encapsulates Graphics Device Interface (GDI) commands. In this case the processor 1042 rasterizes pages from the PDL to a format suitable for printing. Alternatively or addition-ally, the printer may accept rasterized or partially-rasterized pages directly.

20 A variant of the printer controller, a block diagram of which is shown in Figure 5, incorporates a facsimile modulator/demodulator (modem) 1078, controlled by the processor 1042 via a serial interface 1076, which allows documents to be transmitted and/or received via facsimile. The advantages of manual collation of multiple source pages in relation to binding apply equally to manual collation in relation to facsimile
25 transmission. The printer's user interface may give the user facsimile control via a dedicated keypad for telephone number entry and a dedicated button for transmission, but preferably provides a facsimile control user interface via the touch-sensitive display.

More generally, the printer may allow the user to specify delivery of a manually collated document to a remote printer connected to a local-area or wide-area network which is
30 addressable by the printer controller via its network interface 1046. The remote printer

may be a conventional printer, or it may be a printer with any of the capabilities of the printer of the present invention.

For the purposes of being remotely discoverable and addressable as a printer, the printer of the present invention may implement a protocol such as the Internet Printing Protocol.

- 5 The control flow of the printer is shown in Figure 6. During normal printing, the printer receives (at 1080) a document from a host computer, rasterizes (at 1082) the pages of the document, stores (at 1084) the rasterized pages on local or network storage 1088 (e.g. internal hard disk 1058), and finally prints (at 1084) the pages (or transmits them via facsimile). During copying, the printer "scans" (at 1090) the source pages (i.e. senses
10 their codes), retrieves (at 1092) the corresponding electronic versions of the pages, and finally prints or transmits (at 1084) the pages.

CONCLUSION

- The present invention has been described with reference to a preferred embodiment and number of specific alternative embodiments. However, it will be appreciated by those
15 skilled in the relevant fields that a number of other embodiments, differing from those specifically described, will also fall within the spirit and scope of the present invention. Accordingly, it will be understood that the invention is not intended to be limited to the specific embodiments described in the present specification, including documents incorporated by cross-reference as appropriate. The scope of the invention is only limited
20 by the attached claims.

CLAIMS

1. A printer for printing a collated multi-page document when presented with a plurality of manually collated pages, the printer including:
 - 5 (a) a code sensor which senses machine-readable codes on the manually collated pages;
 - (b) a control unit which uses the machine-readable codes to identify and retrieve previously stored electronic versions of the pages; and
 - (c) a print engine which prints the retrieved pages.
- 10 2. A printer according to claim 1 further including a binder for binding together the printed pages.
3. A printer according to claim 1 further including a scanner for copying pages
15 which do not have machine-readable codes on them and which produces electronic versions of the pages.
4. A printer according to claim 3 further including a storage medium which stores the electronic versions of the scanned pages.
- 20 5. A printer according to claim 1 further including a hand-held code sensor which senses machine-readable codes on the manually collated pages.
6. A printer according to claim 1 or 5 wherein the machine-readable codes on the
25 manually collated pages are represented:
 - (a) optically; or
 - (b) electronically; or

- (c) magnetically; or
- (d) topographically; or
- (e) chemically.

5 7. A printer according to claim 1 or 5 wherein the code sensor senses machine-readable codes on both sides of the manually collated pages.

8. A printer according to claim 1 wherein the control unit also controls communications between the printer and one or more peripheral devices.

10

9. A printer according to claim 1 wherein electronic versions of the manually collated pages which are to be printed are retrieved from at least one of the group including:

- (a) a storage medium contained within a host computer;
- 15 (b) a server which is accessed over a computer network;
- (c) a storage medium contained within the printer itself; or
- (d) any combination of the above.

10. A printer according to claim 1 further including an input device with which a
20 user of the printer controls the format of the printed and collated multi-page document.

11. A printer according to claim 10 wherein the input device includes a touch sensitive display.

25 12. A printer according to claim 1 wherein the print engine also prints machine-readable codes onto a page, and wherein the machine-readable codes are not visible to human vision.

13. A printer according to claim 2 wherein the printer inserts blank pages in the printed document to duplicate blank pages contained within the manually collated pages.

5 14. A printer according to claim 1 wherein instructions from a hand-held code sensor are received and interpreted, and a collated multi-page document is produced.

15. A printer according to claim 1 further including an interface which transmits instructions for printing a collated multi-page document to a second printer.

10

16. A printer according to claim 15 wherein the instructions are transmitted over a computer network or over a telephone network.

15 17. A printer according to claim 1 further including a storage medium which stores an electronic version of pages which have been printed.

18. A method of printing a collated multi-page document when presented with a plurality of manually collated pages, the method including the following steps:

- 20 (a) sensing machine-readable codes on the manually collated pages using a code sensor;
- (b) using the machine-readable codes to identify and retrieve previously stored electronic versions of the pages; and
- (c) printing the retrieved pages.

25 19. A method according to claim 18 further including the step of binding together the printed pages.

20. A method according to claim 18 further including the steps of using a scanner for copying pages which do not have machine-readable codes on them and producing electronic versions of those pages.

5 21. A method according to claim 18 wherein the step of printing the retrieved pages includes printing machine-readable codes on those pages.

22. A method according to claim 18 or claim 21 wherein the machine-readable codes are invisible.

10

23. A method according to claim 18 wherein the code sensor senses machine-readable codes on both sides of the manually collated pages.

24. A method according to claim 18 further including the step of using an input
15 device to control the format of the printed and collated multi-page document.

25. A method according to claim 18 wherein the printing step includes the sub-step of transmitting the retrieved pages to a remote printer.

20

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a printer for printing a collated multi-page document when presented with a plurality of manually collated pages, the printer including a code
5 sensor which senses machine-readable codes on the manually collated pages, a control unit which uses the machine-readable codes to identify and retrieve previously stored electronic versions of the pages, and a print engine which prints the retrieved pages.

(Figure 1)

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a printer system 100. The system 100 includes a printer 110, a control unit 120, a code sensor 130, and a print engine 140. The printer 110 is connected to the control unit 120, which is connected to the code sensor 130. The code sensor 130 is connected to the print engine 140. The printer 110 is also connected to a user interface 150. The user interface 150 is connected to the control unit 120. The control unit 120 is connected to a memory 160. The memory 160 is connected to the print engine 140. The print engine 140 is connected to a paper input 170. The paper input 170 is connected to a paper output 180. The paper output 180 is connected to a paper tray 190. The paper tray 190 is connected to a paper feeder 200. The paper feeder 200 is connected to the printer 110. The printer 110 is also connected to a paper output 210. The paper output 210 is connected to a paper tray 220. The paper tray 220 is connected to a paper feeder 230. The paper feeder 230 is connected to the printer 110.

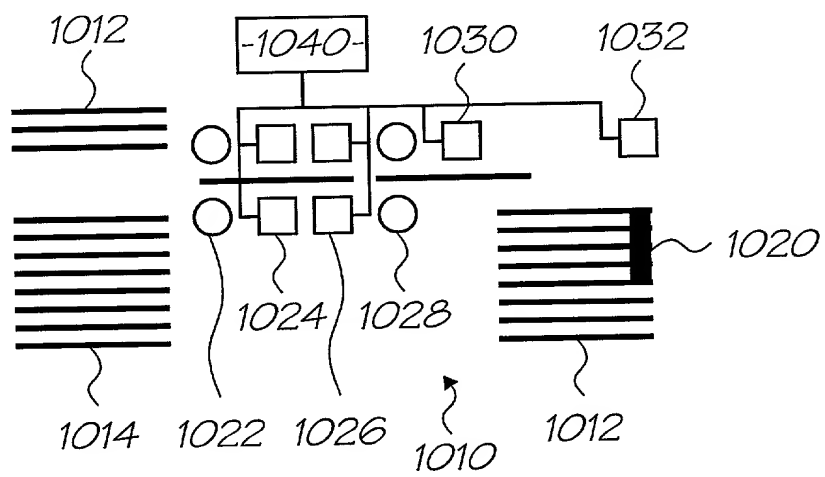


FIG. 1

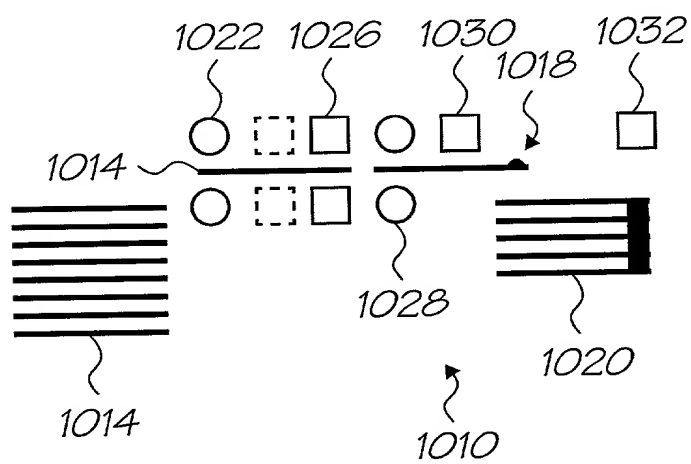


FIG. 2

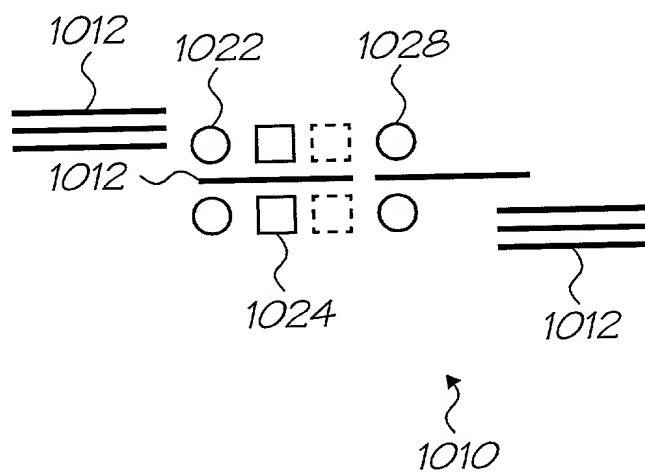


FIG. 3

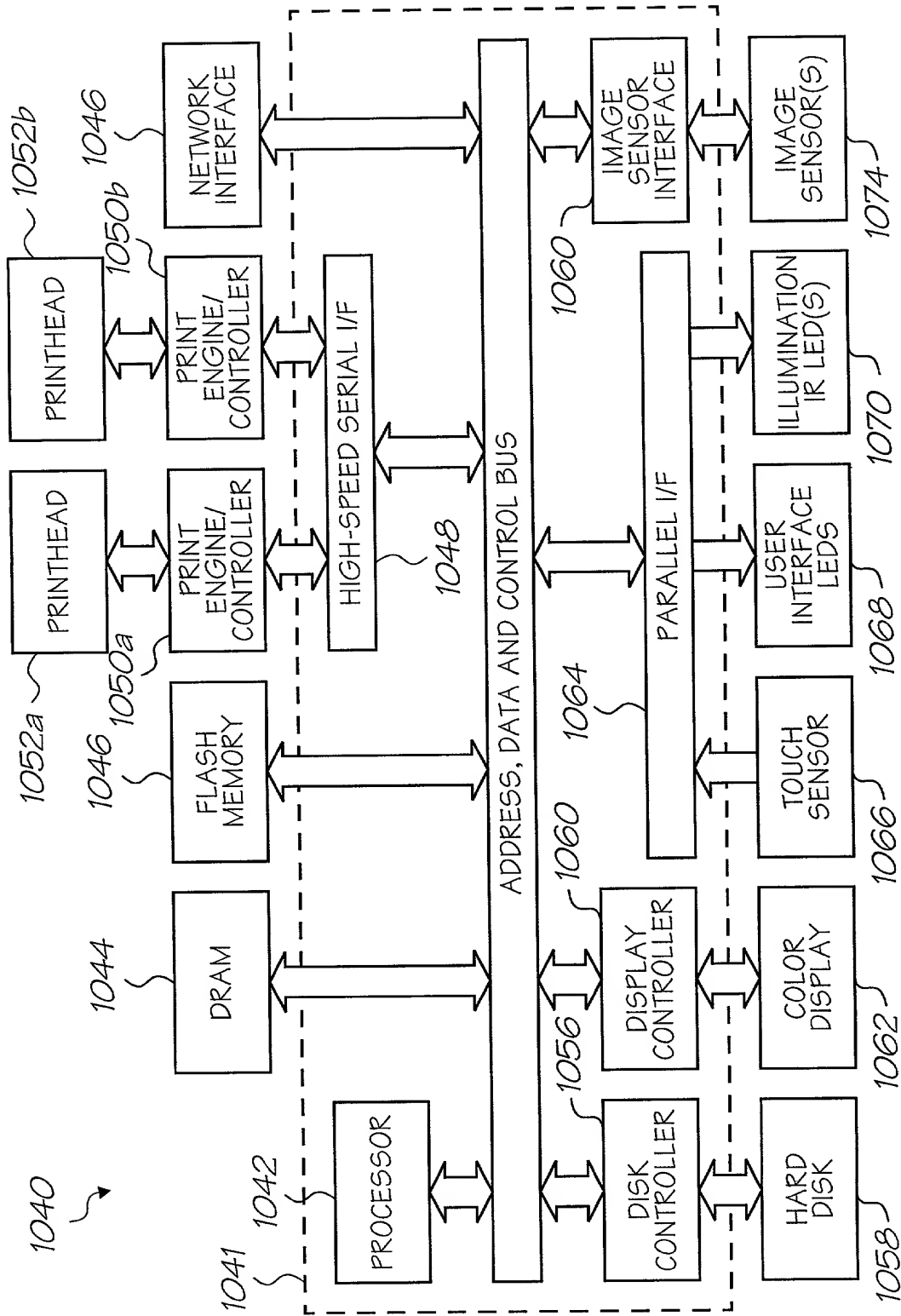


FIG. 4

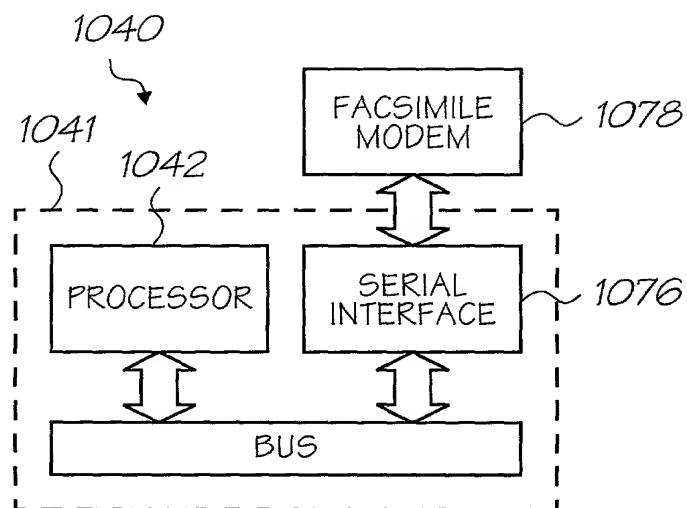


FIG. 5

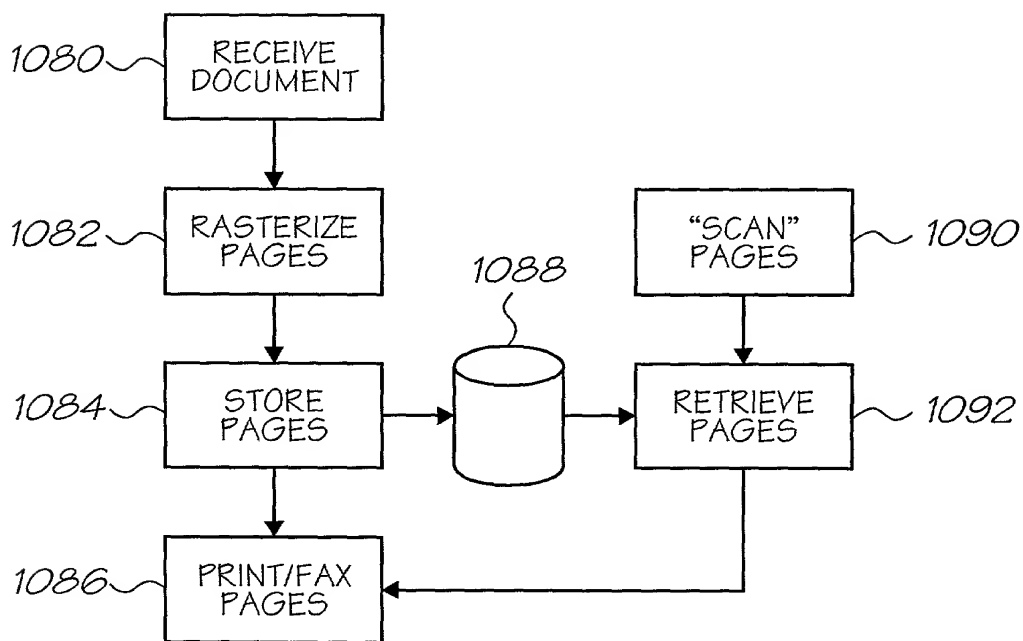


FIG. 6

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	First Named Inventor	PAUL LAPSTUN
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	Filing Date	
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I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

PRINTER WITH MANUAL COLLATION CONTROL

the specification of which (Title of the Invention)

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☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

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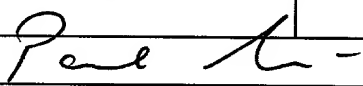
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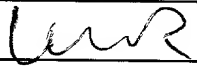
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PAUL			LAPSTUN		
Inventor's Signature					Date
					Nov. 22, 2000
Residence: City	Rodd Point	State	NSW	Country	Australia
				Citizenship	Norwegian
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